

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 CEA-01 FRB-03 CIEP-01
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AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB
SUBJECT: ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: EC BRUSSELS 11709

1. THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) IS NOT YET READY TO ACT ON THE YEAR-OLD AFFILIATION REQUEST OF THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CGT) OF FRANCE. SHARPLY SPLIT OVER WHETHER THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CGT BELONGS IN ITS RANKS, THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ONCE AGAIN TEMPORIZED ON THE ISSUE AT ITS DECEMBER 9-10 SESSIONS IN BRUSSELS.

2. THE CGT MATTER CAME UP AS A REPORT ON A MEETING THAT CGT AND ETUC REPRESENTATIVES HELD HERE ON NOVEMBER 5. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, UPON A MOTION MADE BY GEORGE DEBUNNE OF THE BELGIAN FGTB, VOTED ONLY TO "TAKE
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NOTE" OF THE REPORT, WHICH CONTAINED NO RECOMMENDA-

TIONS.

3. COMMENT: THIS MEANS THAT THE ISSUE REMAINS ALIVE AND CAN BE RAISED WHENEVER ADVOCATES OF CGT ADMISSION, SUCH AS DEBUNNE, FIND A MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE--A STRATEGIC SITUATION WHICH ETUC PRESIDENT HEINZ OSKAR VETTER, AN OPPONENT OF CGT ENTRY, FINDS HIGHLY UNSATISFACTORY, ACCORDING TO THE GERMAN LABOR ATTACHE HERE. END COMMENT.

4. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, AS PROVIDED TO BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR ATTACHES DECEMBER 13 IN A BRIEFING BY DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY SVEN-ERIK STERNER:

A. ECONOMIC POLICY. " A VERY BAD ECONOMIC SITUATION IN EUROPE SHOWS EVERY SIGN OF GETTING EVEN WORSE," AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION DECLARED. APART FROM REITERATING PROPOSALS MADE AT THE ETUC CONGRESS IN LONDON IN APRIL, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SAID IT WOULD "GIVE PRIORITY TO ITS CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE WORKING TIME." (MORE ON THE ETUC'S ECONOMIC VIEWS TO FOLLOW IN SEPTEL ON THE DECEMBER 13 MEETING OF THE EC COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT.)

B. EFTA TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE. AS A RESULT OF ETUC PRESSURE, THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA) WILL HOLD A TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE IN STOCKHOLM FEBRUARY 14 AND 15. THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC, MONETARY, AND LABOR PROBLEMS IN THE EFTA AREA.

C. EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (ESC). PARTLY AS A RESULT OF PRODDING FROM THE BRITISH TUC, AN ETUC COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN JANARY TO DISCUSS REFORMS OF THE ESC, WHICH "HAS NOT FUNCTIONED VERY WELL," ACCORDING TO STERNER.

D. BUDGET. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECIDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO INCREASE THE ETUC PER CAPITA TAX OF AFFILIATES BY 66 PERCENT (FROM 0.6 BELGIAN FRANCS TO ONE BF PER YEAR), EXCEPT FOR IRELAND, GREAT BRITAIN, AND ITALY, WHERE AFFILIATES WILL PAY AT THE PRESENT LEVEL BECAUSE OF EXCHANGE RATE DISTORTION.

E. HERTZ RENT-A-CAR. AFTER A REPORT FROM THE DANISH LO ON THE RECENT LABOR DISPUTE AT HERTZ IN DENMARK,

DURING WHICH THE COMPANY REPORTEDLY REPLACED ITS DANISH STAFF WITH HERTZ EMPLOYEES FROM OTHER EC COUNTRIES, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PASSED A RESOLUTION ASKING THE EC COUNCIL AND COMMISSION TO TAKE ACTION "TO PREVENT A REPETITION OF THIS CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE EC REGULATIONS ON THE FREE MOVEMENT OF LABOR." THE ISSUE IS TO BE BROUGHT UP THIS WEEK AT A MEETING OF THE EC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE FREE MOVEMENT OF LABOR.

F. EC SOCIAL FUND. THE ETUC, DISSATISFIED WITH THE OPERATIONS OF THE SOCIAL FUND (ONE CRITICISM: CRITERIA FOR PROJECTS ARE TOO VAGUE), IS PREPARING A REPORT SUGGESTING REFORMS, AND WILL HAVE IT READY FOR THE COMMISSION EARLY NEXT YEAR.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, STERNER SAID THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TOOK NO POSITION ON THE CASE OF WOLF BIERMAN, EAST GERMAN SINGER AND POET DEPRIVED OF HIS CITIZENSHIP BY THE EAST GERMAN REGIME. RECENTLY THE ETUC YOUTH COMMITTEE, MEETING IN STRASBOURG, SENT OUT A STATEMENT URGING THE GDR "TO OBSERVE THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT, TO RESTORE WOLF BIERMAN'S CITIZENSHIP, TO REALIZE THE RIGHT OF FREE ENTRY AND EXIT, AND TO RENOUNCE THE USE OF METHODS APPROPRIATE TO A POLICE STATE." SHOWN THE STATEMENT, STERNER SAID THAT THE YOUTH COMMITTEE WAS AN INDEPENDENT OPERATION.HINTON

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